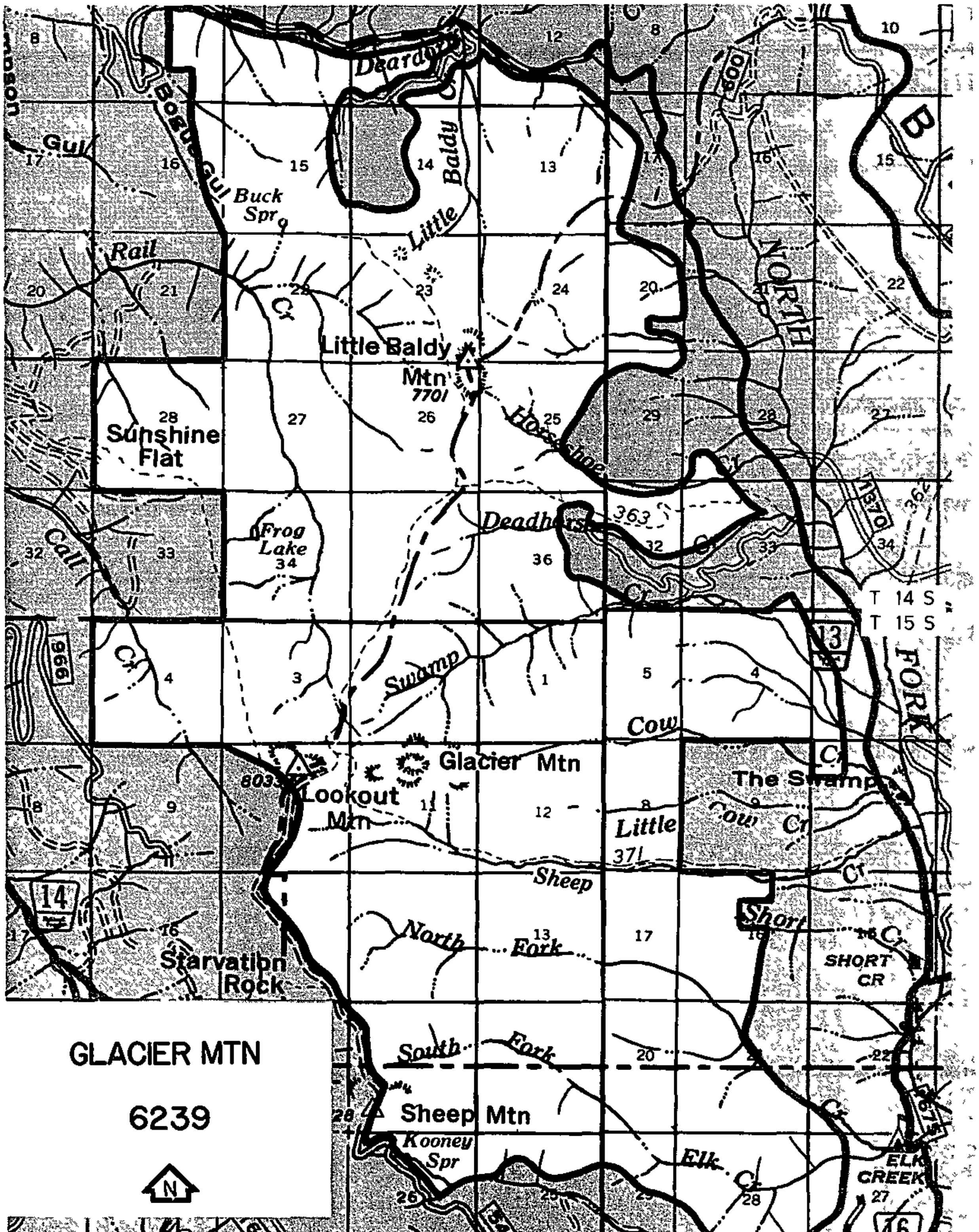
FIGURE C-9


GLACIER MTN
6239
N
Little Baldy Mtn
7701
Sunshine Flat
Buck Spr
Rail
Frog Lake
Deadhorse
Horseshoe
Swamp
Cow
Glacier Mtn
Lookout Mtn
8033
The Swamp
Little Cow Cr
Sheep
North Fork
South Fork
Short
SHORT CR
Sheep Mtn
Kooney Spr
Elk Cr
ELK CREEK
Starvation Rock
Summit Rock
Roaring Spr
NORTH FORK
T 14 S
T 15 S
Deardorff
Little Baldy
Bogus Gul
Call
363
371
966
800
370
14
13
16

J. GLACIER MOUNTAIN - 19,572 Acres
(RARE II No. 6239)

1. Description

a. History

This area was inventoried during the RARE II process The Silvies-Malheur Planning Unit Environmental Impact Statement and RARE II Environmental Impact Statement designated the area to nonwilderness uses

b. Location and Access

This area is located in the eastern part of the Malheur National Forest about 11 miles southeast of Prairie City, Oregon Approximately three-quarters of the area is within Baker County and one-quarter is in Grant County, Oregon (T. 14 S., R. 35 E , T. 14 S., R 35 1/2 E., T. 15 S , R. 35 E., T 15 S., R. 35 1/2 E., of the Willamette Meridian).

c. Geography and Topography

The area's main feature is a deeply incised, high-elevation ridge running from Little Baldy Mountain in the north, through Glacier Mountain, to Sheep Mountain in the south Glaciated valleys lie to the east and west with year-round water courses. Rock outcroppings occur at the higher elevations. No glaciers exist here, however See Figure C-9

The area is located on the west side of the headwaters of the North Fork Malheur River and includes several tributaries to this System. The north and west portions of the area include the Rail and Deardorff Creek drainages, which are *tributaries to the mainstem of the John Day River*

d. Geology and Soils

Soils in the area are predominantly of volcanic ash composition. On the northerly slopes, they are two to three feet deep with a low mantle stability and high erosion hazard The mantle stability for south-facing slopes varies from low to moderate and the deeper soils are very productive.

At high elevations and along ridgetops, the soils are shallow, nonforested, and only marginally productive There are many rock outcrops, exposed bedrock, and talus slopes These soils are easily disturbed and have high rock fragment content.

All soils with volcanic ash content have a moderate-to-high susceptibility to erosion Because of the cool climate and short growing season, there is little vegetative protection at the high elevations of this area. At lower elevations, the soils have a low bulk density allowing them to hold water, reducing the water available for erosion and contributing to the perennial streams in the area. Miocene-age volcanic flows cover all of the area.

e. Vegetation

The high-elevation ridges support subalpine vegetation including subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, alpine sagebrush, and elk sedge. The northeastern portion of the area consists primarily of lodgepole pine which regenerated after the Big Cow Burn of 1939 The area is 95 percent forested and supports primarily Douglas-fir, white fir, larch, and lodgepole pine. Ground vegetation includes huckleberry, pinegrass, elk sedge, and Columbia brome Riparian areas contain some meadow vegetation and riparian shrub species There are about 2,200 acres of old-growth forest that meet the Pacific Northwest Region's definition of old growth

f. Current Uses

Big-game hunting and trout fishing are the primary recreational uses of the area. (See Table C-2) Hiking, backpacking, and camping also occur in the area along with enjoyment of subalpine wildflowers and other vegetation, and viewing a 360-degree panorama of scenic vistas Winter recreation use includes cross-country skiing and ski mountaineering and has included snowmobiling in the past The area provides spring, summer, and fall habitat for mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk. Bear, coyote, and cougar also inhabit the area Pileated woodpecker, pine marten, and other species which utilize old growth also occur.

The streams draining into the upper John Day River drainage support rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout The streams draining into the North Fork Malheur River support inland native rainbow and bull trout Deardorff and Rail Creeks also provide steelhead spawning and rearing habitat

The area lies within three grazing allotments Deardorff, Rail Creek, and Spring Creek. In the Rail Creek allotment, it is unlikely that cattle would drift up into the roadless area The steep, north-facing, heavily forested slopes of this part of the Deardorff allotment also make it inaccessible to livestock. This portion of the Spring Creek allotment is currently grazed every other year

This area receives an average annual precipitation of approximately 29 inches Most of this occurs between October and April in the form of snow, with accumulations up to 5 feet not uncommon. The North Fork Malheur drainage provides water for Beulah Reservoir and downstream irrigation. The John Day River System provides water for irrigation the length of the John Day River, as well as for fisheries and recreational uses.

The deeply incised drainages are heavily forested, giving way gradually to sparse vegetation and rock outcrops of the four mountains and connecting ridgetops The area itself contains interesting diversity in vegetation and landforms with the rise in elevation; however, it is not uncommon in the local area.

This area is separated from the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness to the west by a paved Forest Service arterial road and about three air miles. It is also separated from the Monument Rock Wilderness to the east by a paved Forest Service arterial road and about seven air miles. Both designated wildernesses repeat the vegetation and topography of the Glacier Mountain area and contribute to the vistas available from open ridgetops

Big-game hunting is a major attraction. The splendid panorama, forested isolation, and perennial trout-bearing streams are also enticements to visitors.

2. Wilderness Capability

a. Manageability and Boundaries

The boundaries of this area are arbitrary, following no well-defined topographic features Adjustment to boundaries of the original area to improve manageability could either reduce or increase the size of the area.

b. Natural Integrity

Overall, the natural integrity of the area is largely intact, particularly at higher elevations.

Lower elevations show a history of fire suppression which has led to a gradual succession from ponderosa pine to white fir in some areas Under natural conditions, low-intensity ground fires would have selectively maintained ponderosa pine in these areas.

Grazing effects at lower elevations include concentrations of livestock along streams, salting grounds, dust beds, and cattle trails.

Within the interior of the area, an unimproved jeep track runs from Sheep Mountain to Little Baldy Mountain. Because of the fragile subalpine conditions, this wheel track is not likely to heal for many years. Along this track and scattered throughout the area are fire rings, charred wood, and game racks tacked up from hunter camps. These would not be difficult to repair, however, they are likely to reappear each year

Three low-standard foot trails bisect the area one north-south, the other trails cross east-west.

c. Naturalness

Most impacts to natural appearance are scattered throughout the area and could be easily mitigated The impact having the most unnatural appearance is the jeep track along the ridge

d Opportunity for Solitude

There are many opportunities for solitude within this area. The high mountain ridge is well removed from normal activities across the Forest, and most traffic on roads leading into higher elevations would have other destinations The deeply incised streamcourses provide topographic and vegetative screening from all surroundings

e. Primitive Recreation and Challenge

There are many opportunities for undeveloped recreation, including camping, hiking, and nature study Opportunity for Primitive recreation, however, is limited by the relatively small size of the area and ease of access There is no particularly difficult terrain or challenging aspect to this area.

f Special Features

There are no Threatened or Endangered plant or animal species present in this area. There is one Sensitive plant species occurring here

There are no unique opportunities for historical or scientific study in this area.

There are no known cultural resources located in this area and the likelihood of their occurrence is low.

3. Availability for Wilderness

a. Resource Potentials

The area currently provides roaded modified, roaded natural and semiprimitive motorized recreation opportunities. (See Table C-3.) The area is capable of providing 30,064 recreational visitor days (See Table C-4.) The proposed Pacific Crest-to-Desert Trail would pass through the north portion of this area near Little Baldy Mountain A potential developed downhill skiing site has also been proposed in the area

There are 17,800 acres of forested land tentatively suitable for timber management activities. These trees are growing in multistoried stands with overstories averaging 155 and understories averaging 65 years old. Mixed conifers are predominant with lodgepole pine also present. There is a standing volume of 174.00 million board feet (30.42 million cubic feet). With the use of intensive timber management techniques, 854 thousand cubic feet (4,885 thousand board feet) would be contributed to the annual allowable sale quantity in the first decade. The long-term sustained yield capacity from this area would be 1,152 thousand cubic feet per year.

There is no known locatable mineral potential and no mining claims. The U.S. Geological Survey does not indicate a potential for oil and gas but does indicate a potential for geothermal resources in the area.

b. Management Considerations

Indian paint fungus is present and can probably be found in all size classes of the fir species. Much of the Douglas-fir (especially on rockier, drier soils) is infected with dwarf-mistletoe Mistletoe patches of varying severity can be found. Root rots can be found to varying degrees but are not considered a problem.

Due to high amounts of Douglas-fir and other fir species in the area, all the timber stands are highly susceptible to tussock moth and the western spruce budworm. Western spruce budworm infestation of varying severity is present in the area. Western pine beetle can be found in the area but is generally confined to a few old-growth ponderosa pine trees of low vigor. Mountain pine beetle can be found in the area wherever lodgepole pine occurs.

The western portion of this area contains approximately two sections of land (1,120 acres) owned by Crown Zellerbach Corporation. There are 14 sections of acquired land on which the mineral rights are reserved through 1988. There are 7 administrative withdrawals and some rights-of-way. There are no power withdrawals, irrigation systems, or impoundments within this area.

4. Wilderness Evaluation

The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness is located about three miles west and the Monument Rock Wilderness is about four miles east. The Glacier Mountain roadless area complements these two wildernesses and would provide continuation of that type of experience by providing a one-day hiking distance between each of them.

This area is about 10 miles south of Prairie City, Oregon. The two nearest major metropolitan areas are Portland, Oregon, about 280 miles northwest, and Boise, Idaho, about 180 miles east.

During the RARE II evaluation, responses were 2,795 in favor of wilderness or further planning and 3,369 in favor of a nonwilderness management decision.

During the recent public comment activity on roadless areas for this Forest, the Glacier Mountain area was among those receiving a moderate level of comment. These comments indicated a 3 to 1 preference for wilderness designation.

The primary reasons stated favoring wilderness were its value in providing Primitive recreation, naturalness, and opportunities for solitude. Supplementary reasons were protection of fish and wildlife habitat, the scenic value, and proximity to Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

There were several suggestions that this area be included with Monument Rock and Strawberry Mountain Wilderness as a wilderness complex

The primary reasons opposing wilderness were value of the timber resource and evidence of human activity. Two opinions opposing wilderness stated a preference for a backcountry or roadless designation

During preliminary work on the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984, the Glacier Mountain area was included with Monument Rock as a wilderness proposal Of the two, Glacier Mountain was the favorite of many. It did not survive to enactment of the bill, however.

5. Environmental Consequences

Table C-13 displays the various management area assignments for this area by alternative.

a. Vegetation/Trees

Significant changes in tree size, density, and composition are expected to occur in all alternatives except Alternative C-Modified. The predominant mixed conifer, multistoried stands are expected to be harvested over time Some designated old growth will be retained in all alternatives Those stands will progress through the natural successional cycle Alternative B-Modified retains 1,100 acres of dedicated old growth. Alternatives A, F, and I retain 460 acres of dedicated old growth Alternative NC would retain 880 acres of old growth Additional old growth may be provided within other management areas, such as semiprimitive areas

In Alternative C-Modified and the semiprimitive designations of the other alternatives, the trees are expected to retain present characteristics and a more natural appearance since the forested land would not be managed. Overstory trees, which average 155 years old, would be retained in their natural state, except that naturally occurring wildfires would be suppressed

b. Vegetation/Grass and Shrubs

In all alternatives except Alternative C-Modified, forage for livestock and wildlife is expected to increase as overstory timber is harvested and stocking level controls are achieved in the understory Forage species such as elk sedge and pinegrass will increase as tree canopies are reduced. Changes in forage species composition is expected when introduced grass species are seeded following timber harvest. Openings created by clearcuts will increase forage production even more and improve present cover/forage ratios for big game All forage increases are considered short term on transitory areas such as this, since forage production will decrease as tree canopies close and shade the understory plants.

In Alternative C-Modified, forage production is expected to remain at present levels and may decrease as fir tree species increase.

c. Wilderness

Nonconforming wilderness activities such as timber harvest, road construction, and motorized vehicle use would not occur in any part of this area in Alternative C-Modified In Alternative F, 12,145 acres would be precluded from development activities, while the remaining acres would be developed. On those acres, effects would be the same as those discussed for Alternative B-Modified below.

Alternative A would preclude 11,060 acres from development Alternative I would preclude 9,602 acres from development Use of motorized vehicles is allowed in Alternative I Future wilderness consideration based upon the size of the conforming area should have the highest possibility under Alternative C-Modified, less under Alternatives A, F, I, and NC.

In Alternative B-Modified users would see timber harvest activities, new roads, and motorized vehicle use on all acres within the area. The area would eventually have a managed-forest appearance, with human activities evident in forested areas Future wilderness consideration would be foregone with increased development activities by the end of the first decade.

d. Recreation

In Alternative B-Modified the recreation opportunity would be roaded modified with expectations of increased vehicle use. Big-game hunter success is expected to increase due to reduced hiding cover in harvested areas and easier access. Opportunity for a nonmotorized, remote hunting experience would decrease as additional access roads are traveled by more hunters

Alternative I offers a semiprimitive motorized recreation opportunity which would provide a more natural setting to users than Alternative B-Modified. Moreover, road access during periods other than summer months would be limited by the weather, providing use only for more specialized vehicles such as four-wheel drives. Alternatives B-Modified and I allow use of snowmobiles and motorbikes.

Alternatives A, C-Modified, F, and NC present a semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation opportunity on part of the area (all of the area in Alternative C-Modified) which would provide the most natural setting to users due to absence of motorized vehicles. Eventually more trails, including the Pacific Crest-to-Desert Trail, may be constructed to access new areas while maintaining semiprimitive conditions in a nonmotorized setting.

Additionally, Alternative I provides roaded natural recreational opportunities in the lower elevations of the eastern side of the RARE II area.

e. Scenery

Scenic views offered from the summits of Lookout Mountain and Little Baldy Mountain would be maintained under all alternatives. Under Alternative B-Modified viewers would see the greatest evidence of a managed forest, including clearcuts and shelterwoods. Long-tern effects on scenery would be less old growth to view, more access roads, and less naturalness.

In Alternatives A, C-Modified, F, I, and NC, the present scenery would be maintained at higher elevations and no significant changes are foreseen barring a major outbreak of insects, diseases, or catastrophic fire Under these alternatives, the scenery on approximately 7,500 to 8,500 acres would be altered by timber management.

f. Wildlife

Alternative C-Modified would retain the largest acreage of old growth and the most wildlife snags. Old-growth timber and snags would be less available in Alternatives F, and I, and be most affected by Alternatives A, B-Modified, and NC. Alternative B-Modified would remove the most wildlife snags. Management standards would adequately protect key habitat for all wildlife under all alternatives. Moreover, old growth is designated in each alternative to meet minimum habitat needs of pileated woodpecker, pine marten, and other wildlife. All alternatives except Alternative C-Modified would reduce the amount of mixed conifer old growth in the long term and thereby improve the cover/forage ratio where forage is deficient on north slopes. Increases in available wildlife forage would improve summer habitat for deer and elk. The area does not provide any big-game winter range.

g. Water, Riparian, Fisheries

The riparian vegetation, fish habitat, and water quality of streams which flow into the North Fork Malheur River and the mainstem John Day River would be affected most by Alternative B-Modified and least by Alternative C-Modified, although management standards would adequately protect the resources under all alternatives There would be increased accessibility and use as a result of timber harvest and access roads In Alternatives F, and I, upper portions of the streams within the manageable boundaries would be unaffected while lower portions would be impacted by harvest activities.

h. Cultural Resources

All alternatives are similar in effects on cultural resources Cultural resource inventory surveys will be required when ground-disturbing activities are planned Known cultural resources will be avoided or mitigated. There is no discernible difference between alternatives when considering existing regulations, laws, and management standards applicable to cultural resources. Alternative B-Modified presents the most risk of inadvertent damage to cultural resources, as well as the most opportunity for discovery

i Soils

Effects on soils are mitigated through application of the Forest-wide Standards which adequately ensure protection under all alternatives There is no discernible difference between alternatives when considering existing regulations and management practices

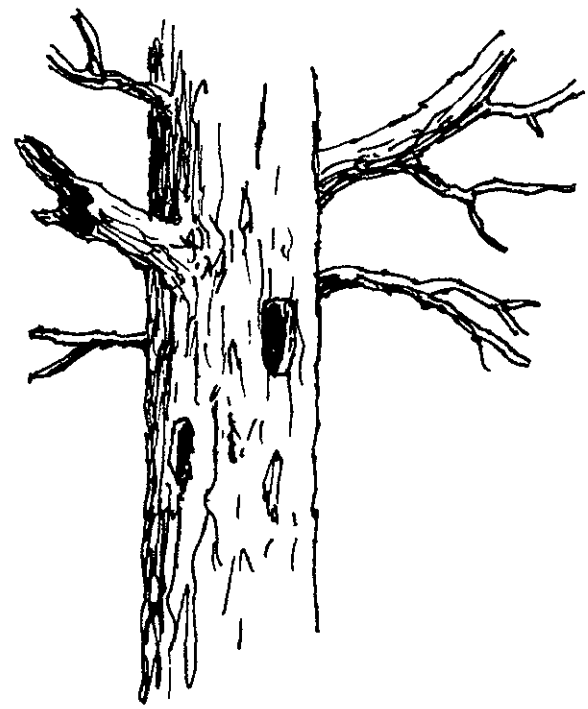


TABLE C-13

GLACIER MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT BY ALTERNATIVE

(Acres)

Management Area	NC[1/]	Alternatives A	B-Mod	C-Mod	F	I-Preferred
1. General Forest	N/A	2,959	15,220		4,498	2,048
2 Rangeland		263	585		220	122
3. Riparian Areas		398	1,089		302	167
4A Big-Game Winter Range						
4B. Big-Game Winter Range Enhancement						
5 Bald Eagle Winter Roost						
6A. Strawberry Mountain Wilderness						
6B. Monument Rock Wilderness						
6C. Pine Creek						
7 Scenic Area						
8. Special Interest Area						
9 Research Natural Area						
10. Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	N/A	11,060		19,572	12,145	
11. Semi-Primitive Motorized						14,578
12. Developed Recreation						
13 Old Growth	N/A	460	1,080		460	460
14. Visual corridors		1,266			1,392	1,642
15 Unit Plan Wildlife Emphasis Areas	N/A	2,425				
16 Minimum Level Management	N/A	741	1,598		555	555
17. Byram Gulch Municipal Supply Watershed						
18 Long Creek Municipal Supply Watershed						
19. Administrative Sites						
20. Wildlife Emphasis Areas with Scheduled Harvest						
21. Wildlife Emphasis Area Non-Scheduled Harvest						
22. Wild and Scenic River						
TOTAL ACRES	N/A	19,572	19,572	19,572	19,572	19,572

1/The Timber Management Plan, upon which the No Change Alternative is based, was developed in 1979. The plan was not an integrated plan and, consequently, did not address all resource uses and outputs in an integrated manner. As a result, these acreages are not available.